

THE SENTINEL



OFFICIAL SAFETY NEWSLETTER OF CIVIL AIR PATROL

From the Editor: *Who's Listening to the Safety Message?*

A resident of Texas, I traveled to spend the Holidays with family in my birth state of New York. While there I visited with CAP members I knew from my previous tenure in NY Wing. When I was asked what I was doing these days in the CAP I responded with, "You don't know?" My name has been on *The Sentinel* since April and I proudly try hard to get the safety message out to CAP's membership. When I told my CAP friends of this news they were surprised, but not as much as I was.

Not to pick on my former comrades, I asked some *Sentinel* questions around the CAP system and what I learned really concerns me. Members are not reading it! We are now paperless and *The Sentinel* is electronic. It appears that members may not be aware of this change or are not taking the time to find it. When I tell them it is posted on the

National website, and on most region or wing sites they seem surprised. I have even seen *The Sentinel* posted on many group and squadron sites. There really isn't an excuse for not finding it, but as Safety Officers we have a responsibility to ensure the membership knows where *The Sentinel* is posted and advise them to read it monthly. I am requesting those of you that are reading *The Sentinel* to let your unit know how and where to find it and that Safety Officers brief this information to the members.

Our National Safety Officer, Col. John Tilton, is working with National Headquarters to improve *The Sentinel* and its content, which is important to you, the membership. We also ask the members to submit safety stories and articles that will be useful as learning experiences for our members.

Maj Larry Mattiello

Living the Safety Message

There is a large variety of aviation safety and educational resources available today. Some sources include the AOPA and FAA websites and books on aviation safety, such as those written by Col Tony Kern. But what good is learning the safety message if it is not applied it to the real world of flying?

The safety culture CAP is trying to

achieve teaches us to be proactive in our safety education and safety reporting. We have built a system in CAP to identify safety concerns and inform the membership, but do we really understand and know if and how the membership uses the information?

I believe living the safety message is the real challenge facing us in the CAP.

Maj Larry Mattiello



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Operation CAPSAFE – 2007 Update

Maj Gen Pineda initiated Operation CAPSAFE in 2005 as a tool for obtaining Safety input from the CAP membership. The program is intended to solicit safety suggestions for both air and ground operations (all CAP duties and positions are encompassed in these two categories). Every member, senior and cadet, is encouraged to submit tips and suggestions. Each month the best suggestions in each Category (Air Ops,

Ground Ops) receive a promotional item and, starting in 2007, the monthly CAPSAFE winning Tip will appear in the *The Sentinel*. So, start thinking about Safety tips and suggestions that will enhance the safety of CAP operations and activities. Send your suggestions to: CAP National Safety Department, capsafe@cap.gov

Lt Col Darrell McCalla, CAP/SEA

Online CAPF 78/79 –January Update

The “beta test” version of the CAP On-line Safety Reporting System is now being tested. Thanks to NHQ IT and all who helped troubleshoot the initial build of the system. The NHQ Safety Department hopes to have the system ready for general use by this April. Until then, the beta testers will still be working with the Safety Staff and NHQ to make sure the system will meet the needs of

the CAP Safety Program and CAP’s members.

Look for an announcement in April on the release of the program. The link to the system will show up in E-services when you log on. Online training will be available to help with the transition to a “paperless” Safety reporting system.

Lt Col Darrell McCalla, CAP/SEA

Summary of CAPFs 78 Received at NHQ CAP for November 2006

Acft, Cessna 182, 11 Nov, tire failed during rollout after landing.

Acft, Cessna 182, 19 Nov, small sparrow-like dent in right wheel strut

fairing found after flight.

Bodily Injury, 11 Nov, tripped over a water bottle during physical training and injured shoulder.

Safety Practices

With the start of a new year, we need to reinforce our safety practices. The safety environment must be constantly refilled with refreshers, little catch phrases or posters to remind us not to hurt ourselves or our equipment. All CAP members are charged with the

duty of maintaining a safe operation. Let’s help each other by using these items and keeping an eye on each other.

Remember, you are the one person responsible for a safe Civil Air Patrol

Col John Tilton, CAP/SE

Brrrr! It's Time for Cold Weather Safety

Cold weather safety is more than just dressing properly. CAP members need to be aware of conditions that could cause illness or injury while out on a ground team or just going to a meeting. One of the leading causes of injuries in winter is falls.

Those of us who experienced the recent ice storm can attest to this fact! Many sidewalks and parking lots had a coat of ice well after the storm. Members need to use caution when walking in areas that are ice coated.

Slowing down is the most effective way to prevent a fall. Wherever you're going, you want to get there without injury – is it really worth the few extra seconds you'll gain by rushing? Nope, not if you end up in the ER!

A good pair of boots or shoes is essential. This is NOT the time to wear your dress shoes with slick soles or high heels. Bring them with you and change when you get into the building.

Property and business owners need to be aware of their responsibility for clearing sidewalks and parking lots of ice and snow. Not only may you be liable for the injuries of guests or damage caused by sliding vehicles, but many municipalities have ordinances requiring sidewalks to be cleared within a certain time frame after a storm.

Another danger that winter poses is hypothermia. The combination of cold temperatures, wind, and humidity can

be dangerous, even deadly. The elderly and very young children are particularly susceptible to this condition and should be monitored – even in buildings if the temperature is kept low. Certain drugs and alcohol will lower anyone's resistance to hypothermia.

The signs and symptoms of hypothermia are as follows: cool/cold skin temperature, shivering, mental confusion, stiff muscles, and fatigue. In later stages, the victim may stop shivering and/or become unconscious. This is a life-threatening condition at any stage. The victim can go downhill very quickly.

Call 911 immediately upon discovering a person showing signs of hypothermia. While waiting for the ambulance cover the victim with a blanket or warm clothing and get to a warm building or vehicle if possible.

Do not massage the victim or give the person anything to eat or drink – including warm beverages. Frostbite or frost nip (freezing of extremities) may also be present.

With proper clothing, footwear, and common sense winter can truly be a wonderland! Enjoy fun activities in the snow, just be prepared!

1st Lt. Karen Tones, Safety Officer IL-240

This article appeared in the Jan 07 Illinois Wing Safety Pins. The entire *Safety Pins* may be viewed at <http://ilcap.org/safety/Safety.htm>